

*In the Claims*

1-55. (Cancelled)

56. **(Currently Amended)** A method comprising:

receiving a first frame and a second frame, wherein

**said second frame is received subsequently to said first frame, and**

said first frame and said second frame are time-division multiplexed frames; and  
relocating network management information from a first set of byte locations of **[[a]]**

**said** first frame to a second set of byte locations of **[[a]] said** second frame.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, further comprising:

receiving a plurality of time slots, wherein

said time slots comprise said first frame and said second frame; and  
cross-connecting said time slots.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, further comprising:

selecting at least one of said time slots.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 58, further comprising:

receiving a plurality of incoming time slots;

sequentially writing said incoming time slots into a plurality of input buffers;

randomly reading a plurality of outgoing time slots from said input buffers; and

outputting said outgoing time slots.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, further comprising:

extracting said network management information; and

routing said network management information.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 60, wherein said cross-connect  
comprises:

selecting at least one of said time slots.

62. **(Currently Amended)** An apparatus comprising:  
means for receiving a first frame and a second frame, wherein  
**said second frame is received subsequently to said first frame, and**  
said first frame and said second frame are time-division multiplexed frames; and  
means for relocating network management information from a first set of byte locations  
of **[[a]] said** first frame to a second set of byte locations of **[[a]] said** second  
frame.
63. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus of claim 62, further comprising:  
means for receiving a plurality of time slots, wherein  
said time slots comprise said first frame and said second frame; and  
means for cross-connecting said time slots.
64. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus of claim 62, further comprising:  
means for selecting at least one of said time slots.
65. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus of claim 64, further comprising:  
means for receiving a plurality of incoming time slots;  
means for sequentially writing said incoming time slots into a plurality of input buffers;  
means for randomly reading a plurality of outgoing time slots from said input buffers;  
and  
means for outputting said outgoing time slots.
66. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus of claim 62, further comprising:  
means for extracting said network management information; and  
means for routing said network management information.
67. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus of claim 66, wherein said cross-connect  
comprises:  
means for selecting at least one of said time slots.
68. **(Currently Amended)** A computer program product comprising:

a first set of instructions, executable on a computer system, configured to receive a first frame and a second frame, wherein  
**said second frame is received subsequently to said first frame, and**  
said first frame and said second frame are time-division multiplexed frames;  
a second set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to relocate network management information from a first set of byte locations of **[[a]] said** first frame to a second set of byte locations of **[[a]] said** second frame; and  
computer readable **storage** media, wherein said computer program product is encoded in said computer readable **storage** media.

69. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 68, further comprising:

a third set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to receive a plurality of time slots, wherein  
said time slots comprise said first frame and said second frame; and  
a fourth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to cross-connect said time slots.

70. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 69, further comprising:

a fifth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to select at least one of said time slots.

71. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 70, further comprising:

a sixth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to receive a plurality of incoming time slots;  
a seventh set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to sequentially write said incoming time slots into a plurality of input buffers;  
an eighth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to randomly read a plurality of outgoing time slots from said input buffers; and

an ninth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to output said outgoing time slots.

72. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 69, further comprising:

a fifth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to extract said network management information; and

a sixth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to select at least one of said time slots.